IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

7.   (currently amended)An operating/managing method in an operating/ managing system of a plurality of storage apparatuses, comprising the steps of:

connecting at least two storage apparatuses <u>of at least two storage service providers </u>via at least two storage apparatuses connecting means of said operating/managing system with a computer<u> of an user</u>,

wherein said at least two storage apparatuses include a storage apparatus ~~being~~ in use at present, <u>and </u>said at least two storage apparatuses connecting means establish connections with said at least two storage apparatuses respectively;

causing a storage apparatus to be specified, ~~said~~<u>the specified </u>storage apparatus being <u>said storage apparatus </u>in use at present;

holding address information of <u>an address of </u>the specified storage apparatus in storage apparatus information holding means of said operating/managing system;

holding ~~each~~<u>information concerning a </u>property of <u>each of </u>said at least two storage apparatuses connected to said at least two storage apparatuses connecting means in property holding means of said operating/managing system;

causing a <u>desired</u> property to be specified <u>from said computer,</u> <u>for use</u>

<u>in selecting</u> a storage apparatus to be used next <u>having a property</u> ~~being~~

~~requested to satisfy said~~<u>that satisfies the desired</u> property;

causing a particular storage apparatus to be selected from among

candidates of storage apparatuses indicated from said operating/managing

system <u>by comparing the desired property to the property of each of said at</u>

<u>least two storage apparatuses held in said holding means and selecting a</u>

<u>storage apparatus having a property that satisfies the desired property as the</u>

<u>storage apparatus to be used next</u>~~in accordance with the specified property~~

~~and said each property of storage apparatuses stored in said property holding~~

~~means;~~

holding ~~the~~address information of <u>an address of</u> the selected storage

apparatus to be used next in said storage apparatus information holding

means in addition to the address information of <u>the address of</u> said ~~a~~storage

apparatus ~~being~~in use at present;

requesting ~~said~~<u>the</u> selected storage apparatus to create a volume; and

instructing ~~said~~<u>the</u> selected storage apparatus to start duplication of

data,

wherein connection destination switching means of said

operating/managing system creates a copy of data sent from the computer

and changes <u>a</u> source address and <u>a</u> destination address of the copy <u>of</u> data

to ~~the~~<u>an</u> address of <u>a</u> corresponding storage apparatus connecting means

and the address of ~~said~~<u>the</u> selected storage apparatus to be used next

respectively<u>, thereby changing a path of communication between said</u>

<u>computer and said storage apparatus in use at present to another path of</u>

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communication between said computer and the selected storage apparatus to be used next,

wherein ~~in order for~~ said operating/managing system ~~to~~ ~~communicate~~communicates with ~~said~~ the selected storage apparatus and ~~write~~writes the copy of data into said selected storage apparatus, and

wherein information duplicating means of said operating/managing system controls reading-out of data from said storage apparatus ~~being~~ in use at present and writing-in of said data into said storage apparatus to be used next based on said address information held in said storage apparatus information holding means.

8.   (presented)   The operating/managing method of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 7, subsequent to said step of causing a particular storage apparatus to be selected, said operating/managing method further comprising a step of:

indicating a fee needed for duplication of said data,

wherein said fee is calculated based on the volume allocated in said storage apparatus being in use at present.

9.   (currently amended) The operating/managing method of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 7, wherein subsequent to said step of requesting said selected storage apparatus to create a volume, said operating/managing method further comprising a step of:

charging a fee to a user of a storage apparatus operating system that owns said selected storage apparatus.

Claim 10 (canceled).